units, Briquetting plants, household sector.

(v) It is proposed to set up 100 more coal stockyards throughout the country, in addition to the existing ones, under the aegis of State Govts./ their agencies and CIL.

(vi) The Standing Linkage Committee (Stockyards) has been constituted to monitor among other coal linkage to the stockyards, SSF plants and Briquetting units.

Lilting of contracted Crude from Iran

129. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISH-RA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India could not lift the contracted crude from Iran before the outbreak of Gulf War;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the quantity of crude contracted with Iran and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRA-KASH MALAVIYA); (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With Iran we have contracted for import ot 2.5 MMT Of crude oil during the year 1990-91. Value of this Crude will be known at the end of the financial year 1990-91 only after full imports have been effected.

Policy to provide LPG facilities in the small and medium towns

130. SHRI JAGADISH JANI. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the present policy of Government for providing LPG facilities in the small and medium towns;

(b) whether it is a fact that many small and medium towns in the country, particularly in Orissa have not been provided with LPG facility; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to open LPG agencies at these places?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRA-KASH MALAVIYA): (a) As per the existing policy, LPG distributorships are being introduced in a phased manner, in towns/cities with a population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census) subject to viaabje marketing and overall product availability.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) New distributorships at viable locations would be set up in a phased manner keeping in mind the overall product availability, which is **being** augmented through enhanced indegen-ious production and imports

Losses to Air India

131. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to improve the profitability of Air India as it has started incurring losses;

(b) what is the approximate daily/ monthly loss of Air India at present and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action plan is proposed in order to make up the loss;
and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (d) Air Inlia has been adversely affected by the Gulf crisis alongwith other international carriers. The airline is incurring higher costs on account of fuel and insurance charges. The airline has also lost traffic on account of the curtailment of its operations to the Gulf countries. It is expected that the Gulf crisis would